

# The Times-Dispatch

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SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1912.

## RECKLESS HASTE.

Without deliberation, refusing to hear the petitions of prominent citizens, disregarding all possible enlightenment from the Assistant City Attorney, after a single formal reading of the ordinance at a special meeting called at the request of the Richmond and Henric Railroad Company, the Common Council of Richmond by a vote of 29 to 7 recklessly, and with no debate, declared itself in favor of giving the streets and alleys of Richmond to the use of this company. A measure that will vitally affect the whole city for fifteen years, that will gravely affect its growth and prosperity, and that offers scant protection to the people, was jammed through without a moment's debate upon its merits to this community.

The farcical discussion upon incidental questions in this franchise proved the appalling ignorance of the men who voted to grant it. But to the Council knowledge meant nothing last night. The serious consideration of the interests of Richmond meant nothing. The expressed opinion of their legal adviser that the ordinance held possibilities of prolonged litigation even to enforce its provisions meant nothing. The protection offered the city in the original draft of this franchise made after six months' study by a subcommittee was disregarded. The franchise framed by this subcommittee was not even read in comparison with the franchise which was practically framed by the applicants in all its vital features.

Not one single step was taken to safeguard the interests of the city. Not only were the inevitable evils of competition in public service utilities not mentioned, but the issues raised by this particular ordinance were not discussed. The costly experience of other cities with the results of competition in this line afforded no warning to Councilmen deaf and blind to all arguments.

The Times-Dispatch and the people of Richmond want to know why this measure was introduced without debate? Can the Council vitally handle every consideration of wisdom and sanity in giving away the city's rights? Are all the actions of this Council taken without its members seeking to know what they represent to the people they represent? Is a deliberative body one that does not deliberate? Can men who are to leave the Council within a few months take it upon themselves to run the risk of burdening the city for years without searching earnestly for the knowledge that will justify their action? Are the people of Richmond not worthy of even a second meeting to consider this ordinance?

The Times-Dispatch deliberately announces to the people of Richmond that their representatives did not take the time necessary for a full and wise judgment of a matter of the most serious interest to every man, woman and child in the community. Regardless of the essential right or wrong of this question, there was no occasion for haste. There is no excuse for this failure to give judicial hearing to the facts. The facts were not presented. The legal advice of the Assistant Attorney was not asked. The Council is responsible. The people will hold them responsible.

This railroad will bear good fruit if it impresses upon the Board of Aldermen the gravity of the decision that they must make. Upon them and their wisdom now depends the careful consideration of the city's welfare. They should assume the more responsibility in 1912. The Council has overlooked the need for any.

## THE STRENUOUS LIFE.

Theodore Roosevelt is now face to face with history. What will that cold and impartial Mæcenas write opposite his name when he seals forever the book of his generation? Will she label him the Great Disturber? The Great Conservator? The Great Adversary? Or the Great I Am? When the chaff of his demagoguery has been separated from the golden grain of his real faith in democracy, what will be the final verdict?

The real value of Roosevelt has been his energy. He has taught the people they must be dynamic, not static. He has shown them that they must reach out and grasp, not tarry and receive. He has overthrown traditions, and this image-breaking has shattered many a dusty idol that had fatty degeneration in the unthinking acceptance of the mob. Every symbol and every battle cry of his career has meant action. He has been a fighter, a bull-moose, and often with no idea of what he was fighting or what victory would bring. In the phrase of the street his divine mission has been to stir something up. He is the tough rider of history. The imperial agitator. The supreme soap-boxer. He has waved the Big Stick and thrown the Big Bluff. He railed against muck-raking that he

might rake more muck. He has bullied, shocked, overriden, denounced, thundered platitudes, revamped the Ten Commandments into rank, won the hearts of the people by his incarnation of their own restless energy—and all of this has been a needed and healthy medicine upon a moribund political quiescence.

He has done nothing more because the sum of his spirit was action. He had no constructive statesmanship to offer; he preached no fundamental reform. He believed in himself like the lightning bolt, and he purified the air, but generated no power. Now the country has gone by him. He is no longer needed. In the space that his reckless burning has cleared, must come the builders, who, with slow wisdom and firm principles, will create a nobler and finer nation. This is what he has failed to realize. For ten years he held the public charmed by his gyrations. His flame scorched, but it gave light.

He created insurgency, but he gave it no foundation. His defeat means not the triumph of Taft and the Stand-Pat Conservatives, but the relentless march of progress nearer the promised land. If his nature had been different, he could have seized upon a great page of history by helping the new democracy without trying to overturn it. He could have been the only useful President. But he was what his own soul made him. Now his day is done. The imperial hand of destiny used him to arouse, like a loud trumpet. Now the same hand lays him aside to take up the tools of a builder. He had only the sword to offer, and the time has come for the plough and the spade.

History will give him a share of glory as the Apostle of the Strenuous Life. And it is not without a high tragedy that his own strenuous life should have ended in a passionate protest of futility. He has served us in strange ways. Let him rest in peace.

## CLARK ON CLEVELAND.

Grover Cleveland was the only Democrat who carried the country in fifty-two years, and he carried it twice by sweeping majorities. The leading aspirant for the Democratic nomination at Baltimore is Champ Clark, who is recorded as having on the floor of the House of Representatives compared Cleveland to Judas Iscariot. The speech was delivered on May 2, 1898, at the height of the Spanish-American War, and in the course of it Clark said, according to the Congressional Record:

There are but two men in the history registers of time that Cleveland's name ought to be associated with—Judas Iscariot and Benedict Arnold. Shades of Arnold! Forgive the profanation. He, at least, did not have a substitute to do his fighting. I don't reflect, I think really I ought to be the guardian of Judas Iscariot, because after his treason he did have the grace to go out and hang himself.

Nor was this Clark's only denunciation of Cleveland. On March 25, 1897, Clark discussed in the House the misfortune of the country in coming under Republican rule as a result of the election of 1896. The present Speaker was smarting under the attack upon the Democrats by Republican leaders of Congress who sought to place the blame for the panic of 1893 upon the shoulders of Cleveland. Clark then said, according to the Congressional Record:

"Mr. Speaker, once for all, I want to unload from the neck of the Democratic party that dreadful old man of the sea (Grover Cleveland). Grover Cleveland is not a Democrat. A Democrat bred and born, understanding his traditions, ready always and everywhere to battle for its traditions, I solemnly declare that he never was a Democrat. We repudiate him and all his works. I will not name him. He is not worth it."

The National Democratic Convention of 1908 took a different view of Cleveland from Mr. Clark's. By a rising vote that was unanimous that convention adopted a resolution declaring that in Grover Cleveland it recognized:

"...one of the strongest and ablest characters known to the world's statesmanship, who possessed to an extraordinary degree the elements of leadership, and by his able, conscientious and forceful administration of public affairs, reflected honor upon his country and his party."

The convention then adjourned out of respect to the memory of the only Democratic President the country has known in more than half a century.

## NO DEMOCRATIC WALKOVER.

The Baltimore Sun heads the lesson of past experience in warning the Democratic party that it is confronted with the peril of overconfidence, and that "the wrangles and divisions in the Republican party may be more disastrous to the Democratic party than to the Republican party." If the Democrats believe at Baltimore that any kind of a Democrat can win, because the Republican party is split, such an attitude will spell defeat. The people of this country will not elect an inferior, an unfit, a demagogue man to the presidency simply because the Republicans are quarreling among themselves. If there are two Republican candidates in the field, and if the Democrats should name a man who has no real appeal to the American people, the Democratic hope will be lost and the magnificent opportunity of a generation swept aside.

If there is a considerable Republican split, the danger is that the Democrats will regard the situation as purely mathematical. If they do so, they will fall into the hands of shrewd politicians who masquerade as Democrats, but wear the secret liveliness of corruption. If a hard fight is ahead, the party will incline to put its best man up, but if a walkover is expected, the professional politician will make the most of indifference and secure the nomination of some impotent figurehead who will have as much appeal to the nation as a wooden Indian.

There is to be no walkover. The Democrats can succeed if they nominate a strong man, but they will fail if they do not. The leader of the Democratic host in this fight must be not simply a meekmouthed professor of platitudinous principles, but a man whose record joined with his principles will constitute a platform of proved efficiency. He must be able to swing the independent vote, or the day is lost. He must attract Republican strength, or the day is lost. The supreme consideration is the nomination of such a man, and personal popularity, logrolling and personal choice must give way to such a consideration.

A mere record will not win a campaign for the Democrats. A mere platform, however high and praiseworthy, cannot carry the country for the Democrats. A man with a record who stands for principles, which his record has shown he stands for is the man who can win. The Democratic party cannot afford to rely on division in the Republican ranks to carry the country for the Democracy. The Republican party has shown in the past that, however it may be divided, it can be united on election day. In 1872 it was badly split. Some of its ablest leaders deserted it, among them Sumner and Greeley, the strongest men in the party. They bolted and put an independent ticket in the field. That ticket was supported by the Democrats. The Republican party was split. It had to go to the country besmirched with the Credit-Mobilier fraud and with enormous corruption written on its record. Yet it won, and it won by a great majority.

Overconfidence has lost numberless battles. It carries indifference in its train, and indifference is the mother of corruption and machine control. If overconfidence lulls the Democracy into listless dullness, the Democratic hope will turn to ashes.

## WOOD BLOCK PAVING.

Discussing yesterday the "Paving Muddle," The Times-Dispatch incidentally and in a general and tentative way made reference to the use of wood blocks for paving in other cities, and the satisfactory results thereof. Coincidentally we find an interesting and informative article bearing on this subject in Wednesday's issue of the Birmingham News.

That contemporary's article relates to no question of particular contract or issue of local street paving or improvement. It is a broad exploitation of the value of the yellow pine of the State as a source of paving supply. In support, however, of its argument, that Alabama has a mine of wealth in her yellow pine growth, and in urging the further development of the yellow pine paving block industry, which, it says, is as yet in its incipency, the News cites some convincing instances of the satisfactory and enduring character of the material. One experiment is illustrative of many, and may be said to have afforded a thorough test.

It has, notes the News, been less than ten years since Indianapolis placed the first important order for long leaf yellow pine paving blocks with a Birmingham firm—an order which is said to have inaugurated the use of paving with this well known Southern staple. In 1903 Delaware Street, Indianapolis, was paved with the material, and no pavement in the city has given greater satisfaction or cost less for maintenance. So well pleased, it is added, have the people become with the innovation that during the past six years the city has made large use of pine paving. The News goes on to state that employment of the material has spread from Indianapolis to other Northern cities, from which, it implies, similar gratifying reports come, and thinks expending establishes that there can be no better, more lasting, more sanitary, and, in the long run, any less expensive paving than yellow pine blocks, when they are thoroughly creosoted and properly laid.

Whether other woods would make equally good and economical paving we are not prepared to say, but, on the evidence adduced by our Alabama contemporary as to the yellow pine block, it might be well for our authorities to give consideration to that material and to the whole subject of wood paving before making further paving contracts.

The Washington Baseball Club easily carries off first honors as king of the comebacks.

It is the irony of fate that the fly that worries the early morning snoozer should always be overlooked in the fly-swatting contest.

One argument the suffragists have overlooked is that women know how to dress sensibly for hot weather.

Band concerts would make life easier for the stay-at-homes.

The advertising value of a national convention is tremendous. Heretofore unknown governors have been suddenly transformed into national figures.

The candidacy of Governor Mead, of Vermont, for the Republican nomination for the vice-presidency stops folks from forgetting that there is a vice-presidency and a State of that name.

Is it cold enough for you?

What sort of tooth powder does the Colonel use?

When will the suffragists support for Speaker of the General Assembly?

Chatham county boasts a candidate for the presidency, but what county has a place of vice-presidential timber?

Six million dollars is spent every year in this country on golf balls. Another reason for the high cost of living.

## On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

The picnic season. Oh joy, oh rapture, children dear, The picnic season now is here. So telephone and get the bunch And pack the old dyspepsia lunch. Dill pickles, doughnuts, hard-boiled eggs, Cold pora and beans and chicken legs.

Potato salad, cottage cheese. Let all the folks bring what they please. Of course, they surely will all bring Again the same old sort of thing. Get on an interurban car And ride, it matters not now far. And see if you can find a place Where trespassers they do not chase.

Don't you get hot and sultry flat, Get out among the trees and flats. Mosquitoes, chiggers and the like, The bugs that never go on strike. Get all the rest that you can take By pulling kids out of the lake. A mile away or some such thing. And long before the hour of ten Begin to long for home again. Participate in family jars And run four miles to catch the cars. At midnight's hour or thereabout, Get home hot, cross and tired out.

She Fixed Him All Right. The lecturer waxed eloquent upon nature. "How beautiful is nature," he exclaimed. "How powerful, how grand, how poetic, how much she has done for all of us. What she has done for you, brother, and you and you," continued the speaker, pointing out various members of the audience.

Finally he pointed to a tall gentleman in the back row and asked: "And what has nature done for you, brother?"

The man rose painfully and walked to the platform, turning and facing the audience. He was knock-kneed, had fiery red hair, and was cross-eyed and had a hare lip. "Well," he said, "I guess you can all see what nature hath done for me. Things fixed me all right."

Things We Could Live Without. Those windbells on the neighbor's front porch.

The gentleman who calls to collect the instalments on that encyclopedia we bargained for in 1897.

Those midnight telephone calls. The good, kind friend who used to know us when we were a kid, and who delights in telling little anecdotes which happened during the harpunting and calf love age.

Advice from the despondent looking gent who knows just how to keep well.

According to Uncle Abner. It bears all what an interest some people take in their youngster's happiness along about Christmas.

Mrs. Hank Parry was kicking out in front of the post-office the other day because she had been waiting for her husband putty high an hour, and Miss Amy Ringle said that if Mrs. Hank had waited for a man as long as she had she would have a real kick coming.

Ame Hilliker went to sleep while on his sulky plow the other day and the boss plowed a furrow clear down to the Golden Nugget saloon through force of habit, and Ame has been plinched for rippin' up the ruff.

One good thing about the aeroplane will be that the delicious bouquet of the gasoline will rise in the air instead of lingering around on the ground as it does after the automobiles.

Uncle Ezra Harkins is thinking some of takin' lessons in cartoon work, as there is a few politicians around here that wants to get even with, but the probability is that about all Uncle Ez will ever be able to draw will be his pension.

Bromides. "Say, Hortense, have you any idea what you did with my trout red last fall?"

"You're the limit, Blanche. You want me to paint this house a different color every spring. Do you think I'm made of money?"

"Where is my thin ones? I know I had about ten union suits last fall."

"Oh, thunder! That two-piece suit of mine is so full of moth holes it looks as though it had gone through the battle of Gettysburg."

"You were the life out of a woman, Robert. How do you expect to know where you put the lawnmower oil can last fall?"

## QUERIES & ANSWERS

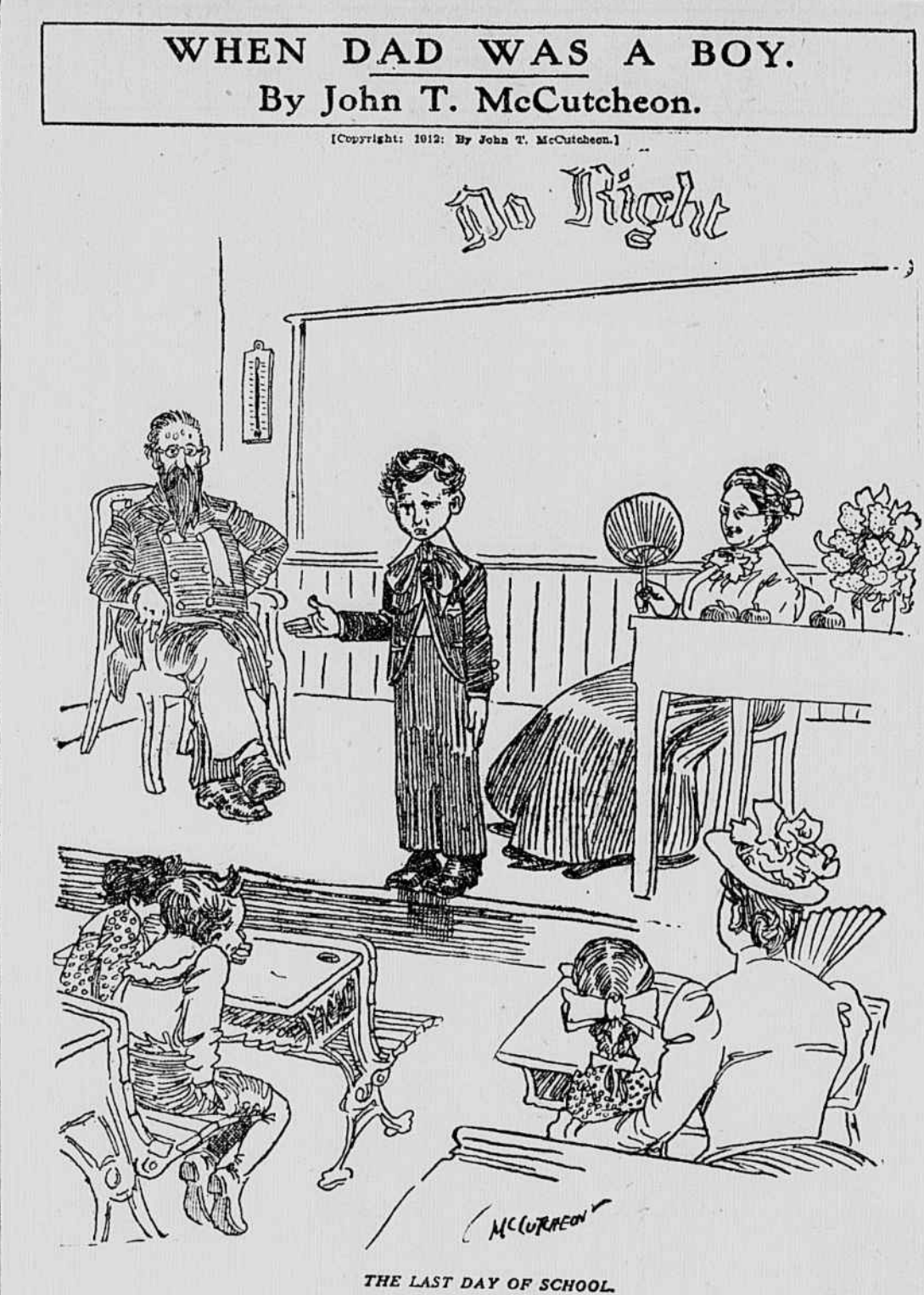
Various. 1. Is it against Virginia law to copy and sell copyrighted pictures? 2. Do I need license to sell to the trade china decorated by myself? 3. Are the coins listed herein of any premium value? ALBRECHT. 1. It is against United States law, and may not safely be done in Virginia or any other State. 2. No. 3. No.

Recognizing Diamonds. I have read several stories in which an expert was made to recognize a diamond which he had seen long before. Is it possible for you to say whether such a feat is within the power of an expert?

MISS M. E. L. Not unless the stone is of such size.

## Abe Martin

HOTEL! I never could understand why a fellow like Abe Martin, who is full of surprises, but the worst of 'em all is fun, isn't he? A noble in a plate of beans.



THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL.

as to identify it or has some highly unusual peculiarity of coloring or flaw or cut. The diamond being, for instance, of five carat, ordinary cutting and ordinary color, would be so exactly like thousands of other stones that no eye could distinguish a difference.

Division of Tax. I have just bought a farm in Virginia. Please tell me what part of the taxes for the current year I must pay.

Taxes for any year are due by the person who was owner by record on the first day of the preceding February. The person who sold you the land is liable for the taxes until February 1, 1913. It is common for buyer and seller to make such division of the year just past. If the late owner had not paid the taxes, the land would be bound for it, your title would be secondary to that of the State, and you might not be able to recover the sum from the seller.

Roosevelt and Taft. Is there any good reason why the two leading Republican candidates are not supported by their own States?

M. M. T. It may be a case of out east prophesies; it is far more likely to come from the fact that such gentry are less trusted where they are best known.

"Gib Blas." Who is the author of "Gib Blas" and who publishes it? F. H. WORTL. Austin Reno Let Sage (1868-1912). Almost every considerable publisher in the world has his edition of "Gib Blas," which has been said to be the most widely read of all novels.

Removing Iron Rust. Can you inform me what will remove iron rust from pink fabric without injury to color?

ANNIUS. A weak solution of oxalic acid will answer. There is an excellent preparation sold in most drug stores, the name of which will be sent you if you will send stamped and addressed envelope.

First Confederate Killed. Who was the first soldier of the Confederacy killed in battle, when and where was he killed?

A. M. S. Henry Lawson Wyatt, born in Richmond, Va. (claimed, of course, by North Carolina); killed June 10, 1861, in the skirmish known as the battle of Big Bethel, some five miles west of Hampton. Captain Wyatt had been killed in the skirmish at Fairfax on June 1; several persons had been killed before that in Baltimore, and Jackson, Alexandria, butchered by Edgeworth's Zouaves. But the more formal circumstances of battle connected with the death of Wyatt have been regarded as sufficient to constitute that the earliest fatality on a "stricken field."

Dutch Auction. Please tell me what a "Dutch auction" is.

MISS A. R. THOMAS. A Dutch auction is a sale, to be made by an article increasing with each bid. From about 1550 dates the English tendency to use the adjective "Dutch" in the sense of "unusual, queer, contrary to common usage, etc." and we have "Dutch courage," "Dutch uncle," etc. So, in England, that auction in which the seller started with a high price and came down by degrees until he found a buyer, being exactly contrary to the usual auction, was called "Dutch," although it seems to have been practiced long before this adjective was applied to it. The method of placing pieces of goods conspicuously and tagging it with a price, which is diminished every day until

sale is made, is about the same as "Dutch auction."

Bees and Patents. Is there an ordinance against keeping bees in Richmond? How does one seek about obtaining a patent? Is an attorney needed?

N. X. N. No. Write to the Patent Office, Washington, D. C., and full information in printed circulars will be sent. No, but it is generally a great convenience to have one.

Pension Act. Can you inform me if the Sherwood pension act provides for pensions to Confederate veterans? A. M. DUNN.

It does not.

Evacuation of Yorktown. Please inform me the date of the evacuation of Yorktown by the Confederates, and state what Federal general led the enemy in pursuit.

CHAMBERS. The night of May 4, 1962. Stoneman.

Old Coins. There are lists from Montrose, J. H. E. G. and Subscriber, Wakefield, Va., containing coins none of which has any premium value.

RUSHES TO CHICAGO. Peachy, Alternate, Goes to Take Place.

Mr. Vawter, on Delegation. William D. Peachy, a well-known lawyer and prominent in Republican politics, who was elected an alternate to the Chicago convention, received a telegram this morning from Alvan H. Martin calling him post haste to the West. Mr. Peachy made it imperative that he should come, his principal, Mr. Vawter, had gone home. Mr. Peachy had twenty minutes to catch the train for the West. Mr. Peachy was inclined to be for Roosevelt.

Twenty-Nine Lives Lost. Passenger Steamer on the Danube Is Destroyed by Fire.

Vienna, June 21.—Twenty-nine lives were lost in the destruction of a passenger steamer by fire to-day on the Danube. The Hungarian passenger steamer Queen Elizabeth was carrying a party of excursionists by the historic river when the boat was discovered on fire. The flames spread with surprising rapidity and a panic ensued among the passengers. Many jumped overboard, while others tried to get out lifeboats. Some managed to swim ashore, but twenty-nine were drowned. One passenger, seeing that death was inevitable, shot himself.

VOTE IS FOR REMOVAL.

Raleigh Will Lose Home Office of Insurance Company. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Raleigh, N. C., June 21.—The stockholders of the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company in special session here to-day, voted to change the location of the home office from a party of excursionists by the historic river when the boat was discovered on fire. The flames spread with surprising rapidity and a panic ensued among the passengers. Many jumped overboard, while others tried to get out lifeboats. Some managed to swim ashore, but twenty-nine were drowned. One passenger, seeing that death was inevitable, shot himself.

Let those who live within her bounds protect and shield her name. And love her as the days shall pass away. For no place could life be dearer or her very soul be more sacred, as history does relate. Of her many noble sons, we need but tell.

From the mountains to the seashore, in the valleys and the dale, Her hospitable people live and dwell. No spot beneath the canopy of heaven can prevail.

That's just the same to those who know her well.

We dedicate this poem to this great and grand old State; We love her very sod on which we tread. How could we but be loyal and just to her? Dr. R. B. Graham, Raleigh.

Carson. National State and City Bank. Richmond, Virginia. Solicits Your Account. Capital, \$1,000,000. Surplus, \$500,000. Best by Test for forty years.

## Voice of the People

Taft-Roosevelt Jingle. President Taft and Roosevelt got in "the ring."

And at the start neither said anything. And if they both had persisted in obeying this rule.

Our country would have been saved from much ridicule. But this rule of dignity did not suit Roosevelt.

And he soon cried out, "Taft, I have got on my belt!"

All eyes were then turned on President Taft.

While Roosevelt, reviling, said you are guilty of graft;

Then mud began to fly both thick and fast.

But all the while the country stood aghast.

Taft refused to slub, and so increased Roosevelt's ire.

So to bring on a fight, he said, "Taft, you are a liar!"

Taft then indignantly and with vehemence replied, "It is not I, Roosevelt, but you who have lied!"

And then, astonishingly, to the country's disdain,

They carried mud and slime in a heated campaign.

And now, sadly, to conclude this little jingle.

They took their cases to the national committee.

The committee sat at Chicago and decided for Taft.

But Roosevelt cried the more you are guilty of graft.

And tried to intimidate the chairman, But the chairman manfully said, "I am up to you!"

So the degrading fight becomes dark and drear.

While the whole country is saying, "This is all wrong."

Recall of judges, and all such insane fudges.

Republican, socialistic and autocratic—To save our great country we will go kindly powers.

And will have no third term in this country of ours.

Chester. CHAS. N. FRIEND. "Virginia." Down in Old Virginia, the dear "Old Mother State," A land with pride, where sons and daughters dwell; Her very soil is sacred, as history does relate. Of her many noble sons, we need but tell.